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Subject: ATSDR MRL info

The info below is from an ATSDR document shared by ATSDR to their state partners.

Also, we are on the call with HQ right now and the ATSDR rep on the line mentioned that ATSDR will continue to support EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory as protective.

Again, as we discussed Tox Profiles do not typically contain a drinking water concentration but rather a dose (toxicity) value. We are not yet in receipt of any specific information for HQ related to how EPA might use these MRLs.

What's new in the PFAS Tox Profile?

This draft of the PFAS Tox Profile updates minimal risk levels (MRLs, explained below) for two PFAS chemicals (PFOA and PFOS) and sets new MRLs for two additional PFAS chemicals (PFHxS and PFNA). Updated, reliable and sufficient data were published in scientific literature after the previous 2015 draft. All four MRLs in the updated version of the Tox Profile are considered draft until they have been finalized following the public comment period.

What are MRLs, and how are they used?

An MRL is an estimate of someone's daily exposure to a hazardous substance that is likely to be without appreciable risk to their health. It looks at non-cancer health effects only. MRLs are derived for different exposure periods, including: acute (about 1 to 14 days), intermediate (from 15-364 days), and chronic (exposure for more than 365 days).

MRLs are used as a screening tool that help identify exposures that could be potentially hazardous to human health. Exposure above the MRLs does not mean that health problems will occur. Instead, it is a signal to health assessors to look more closely at a particular site where exposures may be identified.

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